

News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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ICC Resolution Urges Water Conservation, Efficiency March 16-22 Is Fix-A-Leak Week

The Illinois Commerce Commission today joined with other states around the country in commemorating national Fix-A-Leak Week, March 16-22.

Commissioner Sherina Maye proposed a resolution recognizing the value of water as a vital public resource and the Commission unanimously approved it.

Commissioner Maye noted that in 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency developed its "Water Sense" program, which focused attention on water conservation and efficiency.

"This Commission and others around the country are dealing with our water infrastructure needs. Commissioner Maye said "A large part of that will be the investment that public and private water companies will need to make in the future. But another aspect are the efforts we undertake now to use water more efficiently to reduce demand so our infrastructure needs may not be as great."

She added that the U.S. EPA estimates that water leaks from homes in the United States exceed more than one trillion gallons a year, an amount equal to the total annual water usage of Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago combined. She also noted that:

- Leaks account for, on average, 10,000 gallons of water wasted in homes every year;
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day, including dripping faucets, leaking toilet flappers and leaking showerheads; and
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about ten percent on their water bills.

The Alliance for Water Efficiency estimates that water conservation efforts also can help to reduce energy costs, since heating water daily accounts for 15 percent of total household energy usage.

The Commission encouraged Illinois utility customers to consider reducing their water usage through conservation or by fixing simple leaks, which may, in time, save money.

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